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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicants

: William L. Thomas et al.

Application No.: 09/829,806 Confirmation No.: 9835

Filed

: April 10, 2001

For

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Art Unit

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Examiner

: Annan Q. Shang

New York, New York 10036

July 23, 2007

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 23, 2007, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in light of the following:

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.